

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/03/24 : CIA-RDP82M00531R000400060004-5

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2005/03/24 : CIA-RDP82M00531R000400060004-5

TOP SECRET

5 NOV 1973

Copy 6 of 8

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : Security

I have your 30 October memorandum concerning the recent references to the National Reconnaissance Program outside the approved covert channels. I think you raise an important point that deserves serious attention, and I agree that we should take some steps to review the need for continuing such tight controls in today's environment. Of course, any consideration to declassify the existence of the National Reconnaissance Program and Office would have to be reviewed at the highest levels. However, I think it would be worthwhile to form a small working group to help you and me formulate some thoughts on this matter and to help us decide whether to go forward with a serious recommendation. To do this I suggest a small group chaired by a member of your office with representatives from the CIA, the IC Staff and my Office of Security. If you agree, I will leave it in your hands to get the group started.

In connection with mention of the National Reconnaissance Office in the Congressional Record of October 12, I believe it best if we take no formal action at this time. Mr. Mark Bedner, a reporter for the "Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report," has made informal inquiry in the community attempting to identify more information on the National Reconnaissance Office. I think we have assuaged his interest, if not stilled his curiosity. I will, of course, keep you informed of any new developments arising from this incident.

[Signature] Bill

W. E. Colby
Director

25X1

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

25X1

SUBJECT: Security

ORIGINATOR:

Howard J. Osborn
Director of Security

2 NOV 1973
Date

Distribution:

- Copy 1 & 2 - Addressee
- #3 - DD/M&S
- #4 - ER
- #5 - DD/S&T
- #6 - D/DCI/IC Staff

25X1

TOP SECRET